AUXILIARY MARKINGS ON U.S. FIRST DAY COVERS

The purpose of this exhibit is to show that First Day Covers (FDCs) can be used to carry the mail using the new stamps for their intended purpose. The exhibit documents auxiliary markings, as well as town cancellations/killers used on U.S. FDCs, as evidence that the FDC traveled through the mailstream.

A wide variety of the thousands of auxiliary markings are shown on FDCs. The total number of different extant auxiliary markings is unknown. The more unusual markings are emphasized. FDCs from 1923 through 1978 are shown. This represents a period during which auxiliary markings were most commonly used. During this time, FDCs were popular and were more likely to be sent through the mail.

The exhibit is organized chronologically according to the progress of an FDC through the mailstream. This period includes the time from which the FDC was posted to when it was properly received or returned. Where important, the FDC's routing, time in transit, and rates are indicated. Where pertinent, copies of the reverse sides of the FDCs are illustrated. Cachetmakers are indicated where these are not identified. Especially significant and/or unique items are highlighted with blue matting.

Plan of the Exhibit

1. Sending Post Office Markings
Airmail, Special Delivery, Registered Mail, Insured Mail, Special Markings

2. Delays in Transit
No Airmail Service, Crash FDCs, Burned FDCs, Damaged FDCs, Missent FDCs

3. General Receiving Post Office Markings
Private Markings, Receiving Office Cancels, Manuscript Markings, Duty Free, Unsealed/Empty Mail, General Delivery, Special Delivery Fees

4. Delays at Receiving Post Office
Misplaced Mail, Censored FDCs

5. Postage Due
No Postage Affixed, Short Paid

6. Forwarded by Receiving Post Office
Domestic Destinations,
Foreign Destinations

7. Unforwardable Mail
Moved, Dead Letter Office, Unclaimed, Return to Sender

8. Address Incorrect/ Incomplete
Directory Service,
Incorrect Address
Insufficient Address

9. Undeliverable at Correct Address
Fraudulent, Deceased, Refused, Closed Box, No Response

10. Held for Return

11. Sent to Foreign Addresses
The Americas, Europe, Asia

12. Returned from Abroad Undeliverable
The Americas, Europe, Asia